

Application No. 09/785,559
Filed: February 16, 2001
Group Art Unit: 1744

REMARKS

Claims 1-53 are currently pending in the application and are rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. The Applicant has amended the claims to overcome the deficiencies noted by the Examiner. The Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

Claims 1-28, 31-37, 40, 41, 43, 44, 46-53 are rejected under 35 USC § 103 under various combinations of the cited prior art. Claims 29, 30, 38, 39, 42, and 45 have been objected to as containing patentable subject matter if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, and to include all the limitation of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the limitations of claim 29, the intervening claim 16, and the limitations from claims 28 and 29. Accordingly, the Applicant has cancelled claims 16, 27, 28, and 29 from the application. Accordingly, claims 2-15, 17-26, and 30-53 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1. The Applicant respectfully requests the reconsideration and allowance of these claims.

The Applicant has added new claims 54-58. These claims are based on the allowable subject matter identified by the Examiner

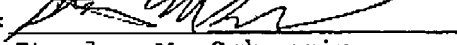
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in claims 29, 30, 38, 39, 42, and 45. For example, claim 54 is based in part on claim 30, claim 55 is based in part on claim 29, claim 56 is based in part on claim 42, claim 57 is based in part on claim 45, and claim 58 is based in part on claim 38. Accordingly, the Applicant believes that claims 54-58, being based on the allowable subject matter identified by the Examiner, are patentably distinct over the prior art either alone or in combination. The Applicant respectfully requests allowance of these claims.

The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned attorney to discuss any matter that would expedite allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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